



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 24 October 2007

Current Nationwide



[For info click here](#)

- *The Associated Press* reports that a dump used for toxic waste, which was shut down in 1979, might be the cause of cancer and other serious diseases that residents living near the plant have developed over the years. Health officials are now investigating if these suspicions are accurate. (See item [4](#))
- *Newsday* reports that methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) infections could develop into a major health crisis, according to doctors. They say that the organism has caused infections in hospitals for years, but now that it has spread to communities, infecting people in gyms, schools and day care centers, it might lead to a major crisis. The doctors also expressed concern because of the lack of new antibiotics to treat this specific strain. (See item [24](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy; Chemical; Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste; Defense Industrial Base; Dams](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance; Transportation; Postal and Shipping; Information Technology; Communications; Commercial Facilities](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture and Food; Water; Public Health and Healthcare](#)

Federal and State: [Government Facilities; Emergency Services; National Monuments and Icons](#)

Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: **Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED**

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *October 23, Bloomberg* – (Texas) **Shell shuts MTBE unit at Deer Park Refinery until January.** Royal Dutch Shell Plc, Europe's largest publicly traded oil company, shut a unit at its Deer Park, Texas, refinery, according to a filing with state regulators. Shell said flaring, or burning of chemicals into the air, from the methyl tertiary butyl ether unit started on October

22 and will be completed by January 19, according to the report. MTBE is a methanol based, high octane, low volatility, oxygenated fuel component made by combining alcohol with isobutylene from oil refineries. Shell operates a refinery and petrochemical plant at Deer Park, about 20 miles east of Houston. The plant can process 340,000 barrels of oil a day.

Source:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601072&sid=ac9XBZzRquwM&refer=energy>

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Chemical Industry Sector

2. *October 23, Tribune-Chronicle, The Associated Press* – (International) **Chemicals pose dangerous risk for the world.** Accidents will happen – but there are certain situations in which Americans are right to be exceedingly worried about them. Handling of biological and chemical toxins in laboratories is one of those situations. A review conducted by *The Associated Press* of accidents at high-security laboratories, where research involves toxic substances and dangerous microbes, has indicated that, since 2003, hazardous materials have been involved in more than 100 mishaps and missing shipments. Some of the germs involved are those that cause anthrax, plague and monkey pox, among other biological agents. The possibility that terrorists could obtain and use such germs is frightening – but even accidental exposure could cause a worldwide epidemic in which the death toll could be enormous.
Source: <http://www.tribunechronicle.com/Editorials/articles.asp?articleID=23979>
3. *October 22, Dayton Business Journal* – (Ohio) **EPA fines local Dole plant.** The Springfield Dole Fresh Vegetables Inc. facility is being fined for failing to implement a chemical accident plan correctly. The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency said Monday it is charging Dole \$54,450 for failing to provide adequate training and handling procedures for copious amounts of anhydrous ammonia and chlorine kept at the facility in Springfield. Ammonia is an irritant and corrosive to the skin, eyes, respiratory tract and mucous membranes, which combined with chlorine produces chloramine gas, which causes irritation to the eyes, nose, throat and airways. At the Springfield facility, Dole uses ammonia in its refrigeration process and treats water with chlorine. Because of the amount of anhydrous ammonia and chlorine at the facility, the company must file a risk management plan with the Ohio EPA outlining a program to prevent accidental releases. This includes staff training and handling procedures for working with the chemical, as well as describing a worst-case scenario for a chemical release.
Source: http://www.bizjournals.com/dayton/stories/2007/10/22/daily5.html?ana=from_rss
4. *October 22, The Associated Press* – (Pennsylvania) **Health officials study Pennsylvania waste dump.** More than 30 years ago, an abandoned mine in Pennsylvania coal country was turned into a dump for toxic waste. When government officials finally shut down the site in 1979, they found nearly 7,000 storage drums and dead birds and animals. Many of the drums were badly corroded and leaking dangerous chemicals. The Environmental Protection Agency called it the state's worst environmental hazard, placed it on the Superfund list and began a cleanup. Years later, officials say the site does not pose a health hazard. However, residents who live nearby are skeptical. They say they seem to be getting cancer and other serious diseases in startling numbers. By one unofficial estimate, 70 of 100 homes within a half-mile

of the site have been touched. This week, the government will report on a possible cluster of polycythemia vera, or PCV, a rare blood disease that has sickened dozens of people. Clusters are difficult to prove. Investigators must establish an unusually high number of cases of a specific disease within a given population and then figure out whether it can be attributed to something in the environment. Most reported clusters are found to be due to chance. However, residents hope the report will force a re-evaluation of the safety of one of the worst toxic waste dumps in the nation — and, perhaps, focus attention on people, who not only contracted PCV, but also suffer from cancer, multiple sclerosis, lupus and other serious illnesses.

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20071022/ap_on_re_us/toxic_dump_fears;_ylt=ArdIpRrvZQYKy oPV1f1px.BG2ocA

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

5. *October 23, The Associated Press* – (Illinois) **Northern Illinois nuclear plant shut down because of leaks.** A northern Illinois nuclear power plant will remain shut down this week during repairs to a leaky water-cooling pipe that forced the plant off line. The leak was found during an inspection Friday, and the power plant was shut down the same day.
Source: <http://pantagraph.com/articles/2007/10/23/news/doc471d8453bf4fe026758418.txt>
6. *October 22, USA TODAY* – (National) **White House may stop plan for anti-radiation pills.** The White House may scrap a plan that would give anti-radiation pills to millions of people, five years after Congress ordered that the tablets be made available to anyone living within 20 miles of a nuclear reactor. Congress issued the order based on concerns that terrorists could attack a nuclear plant. The government already provided free pills to the 4.7 million people living within 10 miles of a plant, but Congress ordered wider distribution to cover 21.9 million people in 33 states. Although the White House at the time called potassium iodide pills crucial to preventing thyroid cancer in cases of radiation exposure, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) argues against wider distribution of the drug. According to the NRC, the pills may not be the most effective way to prevent cancer and could undermine confidence in U.S. nuclear plants.
Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2007-10-22-nukepill_N.htm?loc=interstitialskip
7. *October 22, The Associated Press* – (Arizona) **Utility OKs corrective action at nuclear plant.** Arizona Public Service Co. (APS) has agreed to revise training for operators at its Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station after a falsified-record incident last year, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) said Monday. Under the agreement, which was reached through a mediation process, APS will provide special training for its reactor operators focused on reporting their own errors and on having someone else check each person's work. The NRC also reached a separate mediated agreement with a former APS employee, who was at the center of the November 2006 incident during a maintenance procedure. According to the NRC, the senior reactor operator misrecorded a number during the procedure. The mistake caused the plant's computers to underreport thermal power by 0.3 percent, but it did not pose

any safety or public health threat, the NRC said.

Source: <http://www.mohavedailynews.com/articles/2007/10/23/news/state/state2.txt>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

8. *October 23, Enigma Inc.* – (National) **MTC Technologies and Enigma streamline maintenance logistics for U.S. Army.** Enigma Inc., a provider of aftermarket service and support technology, recently announced that the United States Army Field Support Battalion - Afloat (AFSBn-A) in Charleston, South Carolina has selected the Enigma Integrated Maintenance Logistics (E-IML) solution to facilitate the maintenance of various Army vehicles. The E-IML solution provides maintenance supervisors, inspectors and mechanics with a single electronic interface to all maintenance, logistics and operational information for multiple platforms and weapons systems. According to the company, the E-IML solution provides Class 3 through 5 Interactive Electronic Technical Manual (IETM) functionality; it supplies the maintainer with a complete maintenance solution, from diagnosis to service and repair, to parts procurement, thus reducing the time to inspect vehicles, reducing parts mis-orders, and increasing equipment uptime.

Source: <http://www.logisticsonline.com/content/news/article.asp?docid=25306cf9-038f-47b7-98dd-00b6e2f94b61&atc~c=771+s=773+r=001+l=a&VNETCOOKIE=NO>

9. *October 22, FLIR Systems, Inc.* – (National) **FLIR Systems announces \$3.2 million order from U.S. DOD.** FLIR Systems, Inc. announced today that it has received a \$3.2 million order from the United States Department of Defense for its next generation, lightweight, high performance thermal imager. This represents the first delivery order under a newly awarded \$27 million indefinite delivery, indefinite quantity contract. The units delivered under this order will be used by the U.S. military for reconnaissance and surveillance missions. The system was developed in conjunction with customer participation and represents the latest in long range, man-portable thermal imaging system capability. The system weighs less than 5 pounds, incorporates high magnification optics and runs on commercially available batteries.

Source: <http://biz.yahoo.com/iw/071022/0318671.html>

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Banking and Finance Sector

10. *October 22, WFIE 14 Indiana, Kentucky, Illinois* – (Kentucky) **KSP: Contractor scam targets tornado victims.** Kentucky State police warned residents of scammers trying to take advantage of the latest storm victims. Following Thursday's storms in Western Kentucky, residents might become the target of fraudsters posing as contractors who offer "quick and affordable services." The police said that before paying people to do work on their property, victims should check with the Home Builder's Association, the Better Business Bureau, or the local code enforcement office.

Source: <http://www.14wfie.com/Global/story.asp?S=7249081>

11. *October 22, WIBW* – (Kansas) **Alert: credit card scam.** Kansas's Attorney General's office

released a warning of a scam involving people calling and claiming that the recipient's credit card record shows an unusual purchase. They gain the victim's trust by saying they know the name and the last four digits of the recipient's social security number. Subsequently, they ask for the credit card three-digit code in order to get rid of the purchase. The officials warn people not to give their code numbers because the scammers probably have their credit card information, but need the three-digit code to make purchases.

Source: <http://www.wibw.com/home/headlines/10730386.html>

12. *October 22, The Houston Chronicle* – (Texas) **Agency says seniors being targeted by medical ID scam.** The program director with the Houston's Better Business Bureau Education Foundation announced Monday that her office received reports of scammers targeting seniors by posing as telemarketers. The fraudsters claim that the seniors' Medicare cards are no longer valid and that they need to sign up for a new one. Then, they ask for a bank account number and when they are refused "they yell at people, they tell them they are stupid and will call back repeatedly in hopes of scaring the seniors into giving out their banking information," according to the director.

Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/metropolitan/5236214.html>

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Transportation Sector

13. *October 23, Los Angeles Times* – (California) **FAA chief cites hazard at LAX site.** A Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) administrator stated that two runways on the north side of the Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) need to be further apart from each other to reduce the chances of collisions between aircraft on the ground. However, residents from the area oppose the idea of having runways closer to their homes. LAX has experienced five serious runway incidents over the last five years. In order to move a runway 300 feet, authorities would have to spend \$1 billion. Some objected to the plan and claimed that the money should be spent on projects that would provide a greater impact on safety, such as hiring more controllers.
14. *October 23, Burlington Free Press and The Associated Press* – (Vermont) **Train derails in Middlebury.** A freight train derailed on Monday in Middlebury, Vermont spilling gasoline and causing the evacuation of 30 streets. The train's 14 tankers contained 20,000 gallons of gasoline each. According to the Middlebury Police chief, seven of the tankers ruptured and a fire ignited in one of the overturned cars, which prompted the evacuation of near by residents and schools. The Red Cross set up an emergency shelter for displaced residents. Hazardous materials personnel transferred the gasoline from tankers to trucks, which transported it to a holding facility. No one was injured. Investigators are looking into the cause of the derailment.

Source:

<http://www.burlingtonfreepress.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071023/NEWS01/710230308/1009/NEWS05>

15. *October 22, Reuters* – (Virginia) **Part of Washington-area Dulles airport evacuated.** Some outgoing United Airlines flights were slightly delayed on Monday at Dulles International Airport after authorities evacuated parts of the airport for more than an hour. The evacuation was prompted by a suspicious item found in the main screening area, which the bomb squad later confirmed did not pose any danger.

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20071022/us_nm/usa_security_airport_dc;_ylt=AgZxm.WENXtQi8qwsIrkIY8WIr0F

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Postal and Shipping Sector

16. *October 22, Memphis Commercial Appeal* – (Tennessee) **White powder scare in District Attorney's office.** A District Attorney's office was under quarantine for a brief period Monday afternoon after a prosecutor received a letter containing a white powder later determined to be baking soda. As a precaution, the fire department's hazardous materials team was sent to investigate and gave the all-clear about 30 minutes later, said an office spokeswoman. She said a letter and powder apparently were sent by a prisoner at the Shelby County Penal Farm, who has a pending aggravated robbery charge. She said the sheriff's department is investigating and that new charges could be filed.

Source: <http://www.commercialappeal.com/news/2007/oct/22/white-powder-scare-district-attorneys-office/>

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Agriculture and Food Sector

17. *October 23, The International Herald Tribune* – (National) **Many red flags preceded a hamburger recall in the U.S.** Five years ago, the government demanded more stringent safeguards against contamination because of a deadly form of E. coli. But federal regulators, who are trying to ascertain what went wrong in the Topps contamination case, acknowledge that those controls are not working in some meat plants. The Topps case is the most serious of 16 recalls this year involving E. coli contaminated beef. That is a sharp increase from 2005 and 2006, and the resurgence of the pathogen raises questions about whether the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has given the meat industry too much leeway to police itself. Two years ago, after an 8-year-old girl in New York was sickened by Topps ground beef, the USDA scrutinized the company's Elizabeth, New Jersey plant and found relatively few problems. However, since then, the department said, Topps cut its microbial testing on finished ground beef from once a month to three times a year, a level considered inadequate. Federal investigators said they had recently learned that the company failed to require adequate testing on the raw beef it bought from its domestic suppliers, and it sometimes mixed tested and untested meat in its grinding machines. The USDA also acknowledged that its safety inspectors, who were in the Topps plant for an hour or two each day, never cited the company for these problems. Topps, like many other beef processors, had bought an increasing amount of meat from overseas. Some types of meat from foreign countries are not required to be tested.

Source: <http://www.iht.com/articles/2007/10/23/business/beef.php>

18. *October 22, The Associated Press* – (Wisconsin) **DNR considers backing off statewide fish movement ban.** Temporary rules would prohibit moving live fish from any Wisconsin water if VHS virus, or viral hemorrhagic septicemia, is found anywhere beyond the Lake Winnebago chain. The rules were aimed at controlling the virus, which lives in water and causes fish to bleed to death. But the Natural Resources Board now plans to vote Wednesday on permanent regulations that would limit the movement ban only to the specific body of water where the virus is found. State Department of Natural Resources officials say the virus probably has not spread across Wisconsin and they do not want outbreaks hundreds of miles away to inconvenience anglers and bait harvesters. The virus has spread through much of the Great Lakes over the past five years; Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, New York, and the United States Department of Agriculture have adopted regulations aimed at containing it.

Source:

<http://www.postcrescent.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071022/APC0101/71022146/1979/frontpage>

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Water Sector

19. *October 23, The Charlotte Observer* – (North Carolina) **Governor: Cut water use by half.** The governor of North Carolina has asked residents to cut their water consumption in half between now and the end of the month. Public water systems will keep daily usage records for state officials and next month the governor will issue a list of the top water-saving communities. For the second week in a row, the governor refrained from imposing statewide emergency restrictions, in spite of the serious drought. About a quarter of the state's population has voluntary restrictions, while mandatory restrictions cover just more than half of the population tracked.

Source: <http://www.charlotte.com/local/story/330070.html>

20. *October 22, The Associated Press* – (Montana) **Mont. environmental standard upheld.** On Friday, a district judge ruled that the standards created in 2003 and 2006 by the state Board of Environmental Review and the Department of Environmental Quality followed the law. The water-quality standards were devised to protect rivers in the Powder River Basin from pollution resulting from coal-bed methane development. Drilling for natural gas in coal seams requires pumping to the surface and disposing of huge amounts of groundwater. The groundwater in part of the basin is high in sodium, which could harm agriculture. The judge ruled that under the Montana Water Quality Act, the state had classified the Tongue, Powder and Little Powder rivers as suitable for irrigation, and had to maintain them as such.

Source: http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5hbCqLR_nyhCmMefwZxLZ-uOTbjqw

21. *October 21, The Kansas City Star* – (National) **Missouri River vulnerable to drought's effects.** Despite summer rains, the Missouri River is still showing the effects of drought upstream. Years of drought resulted in low winter water releases from reservoirs in Montana and the Dakotas, which affected utilities and industries in Kansas and Missouri. If sufficient rain had not fallen, the barge shipping season in 2008 would have been canceled. Still, this

year's shipping season will end 35 days early, in order to conserve water upstream, and, unless conditions change dramatically, next year's season will be shorter as well.

Source: <http://www.kansascity.com/115/story/327278.html>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

22. *October 23, Los Angeles Times* – (California) **Windblown soot, dust, and gas pose threat.** California health officials said the air quality in Southern California is deteriorating and urged the young, the elderly and those with breathing problems to stay indoors until further notice as Southern California's wildfires continued to pollute the air with smoke, gas and dust. Even healthy adults were told to avoid exerting themselves outdoors, while schools from San Diego to San Bernardino were urged to cancel open-air gym classes. A recommendation for schools in Los Angeles and Long Beach to do the same quickly followed. Air quality officials said it was rare for so many Southern California communities to be affected at the same time. "What we're seeing today is a combination of smoke from the many wildfires, as well as dust that's being kicked up by high winds," said a spokesman for the South Coast Air Quality Management District. "This is obviously a very large-scale event that is affecting our entire four-county region in air quality." The district, which encompasses Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino counties, issued "unhealthy" and "very unhealthy" air quality readings in regions close to fires or downwind of them.

Source:

<http://www.latimes.com/features/health/medicine/la-me-air23oct23,1,1898531.story?coll=la-health-medicine>

23. *October 22, Center for Infectious Disease Research & Policy News* – (National) **White House aims to transform public health preparedness.** The White House recently issued Homeland Security Presidential Directive 21 (HSPD 21), which is aimed at bolstering the response of federal, state, and local public health systems to national emergencies such as bioterrorist attacks, influenza pandemics, and natural disasters. The document says it will "transform our national approach to protecting the health of the American people against all disasters." The directive was published on the White House Web site on October 18 and is the latest in a series of executive orders issued since September 11, 2001 to protect the nation in the event of terrorist attacks or other "catastrophic health events." The directive covers four main topics: biosurveillance, countermeasure stockpiling and distribution, mass-casualty care, and community resilience. Each area contains specific actions and timelines.

Source:

<http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/panflu/news/oct2207directive.html>

24. *October 22, Newsday* – (National) **Drug resistant MRSA developing into medical crisis.** Doctors have concluded that methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) is here to stay. It is an organism that can cause mild skin infections, but is capable of invading the bloodstream and causing systemic damage. For years it has been a problem in hospitals, a so-called nosocomial infection. Now it is making its way into communities, infecting people in gyms, schools and day care centers. "This is a major, major health crisis," said a doctor at the University of Rochester, who recently announced the emergence of a new strain of

Streptococcus pneumoniae, another drug-resistant bug. He and an epidemiologist with the Los Angeles County Health Department have placed part of the blame on the pharmaceutical industry, which they claim is not developing new antibiotics to treat the strain because the profit margins are too small. Antibiotics, when used improperly, are also to blame. Microbes develop resistance when patients do not finish a full course of antibiotics. A shortened course destroys weak bugs, but hardy ones remain. Antibiotic overuse in hospitals is another reason microbes develop resistance.

Source: http://www.newsday.com/news/health/ny-hsmrsa1023_0,7531913.story

Government Facilities Sector

25. *October 22, KLTN 7 Tyler-Longview-Jacksonville, Texas* – (Texas) **String of local break-ins put East Texas schools on high alert.** Over the past week, several schools in East Texas were broken into. The superintendents of two of the school districts that suffered break-ins stated that the thieves “got away with a few hundred dollars in cash.” In addition, it appears that some student information was also missing. The Wood County Sheriff’s Department, who is investigating one of the break-ins, said he “believes the thieves were familiar with the campus” and that it is “too early to say if all four school district break-ins are related.” They plan to meet with the other investigating agencies to go over the crime scenes.

Source: http://www.kltv.com/Global/story.asp?S=7249711&nav=menu117_3

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Emergency Services Sector

26. *October 22, The Boston Herald* – (Massachusetts) **Boston EMTs: Overdose Rx a stupid fix.** Advertising with the glib phrase “Got Narcan? Need a refill?” plastered on the side of its needle exchange vans, the Boston Public Health Commission is stuffing the pockets of drug addicts with the powerful prescription drug in hopes of countering heroin overdoses. However, front-line ambulance workers said giving addicts a powerful overdose remedy is a flat-out “stupid” practice that encourages uninhibited drug use and could even endanger their lives. “The solution is for a health care professional to administer the drug, then offer them detox. These days you don’t know if the heroin is laced with something that can interact with it,” said the head of the Boston Police Patrolman’s Union/EMS Division. “It’s stupid, and you can quote me on that.” The Public Health Commission, which oversees the emergency medical service, reports that since it began distributing Narcan a year ago, the drug has saved 50 addicts from overdoses. The commission’s medical director said the bottom line is that Narcan saves lives. It also keeps addicts returning to the city for services and counseling so that one day perhaps the addict will want to get off drugs, he added. Narcan, also known as Naloxone, is a fast-acting drug that is administered by a nasal inhaler and races to the breathing center of the brain rendered comatose by a heroin overdose, shocking the victim back to life, according to a health commission report. However, critics say the drug also has side effects, ranging from vomiting to increased blood pressure to seizures and even cardiac arrest. That is one reason EMS crews are required to hospitalize addicts treated with Narcan.

Source: [http://www.emsresponder.com/web/online/Top-EMS-News/Boston-EMTS--Overdose-Rx-a-Stupid-Fix-/1\\$6413](http://www.emsresponder.com/web/online/Top-EMS-News/Boston-EMTS--Overdose-Rx-a-Stupid-Fix-/1$6413)

Information Technology

27. *October 23, IDG News Service* – (National) **ID thieves have a 50-50 chance of going to prison.** If you are a convicted identity thief, you have about a 50 percent chance of avoiding jail. That is one of the findings of a new study of closed U.S. Secret Service case files, released Monday by Utica College's Center for Identity Management and Information Protection. This is the first time researchers have been allowed to sift through the Secret Service's data. The study's authors based their findings on an analysis of 500 closed Secret Service cases. "Prosecutors had a slightly better chance of sending a convicted identity thief to prison than not (51 percent) and could expect to see the imprisoned offender sentenced to three years or less of incarceration," the report said. The college has been working with a number of partners, including the Secret Service, IBM, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, since the Center's creation in mid-2006 to study the methods used by ID thieves and to help corporations and law enforcement prevent this type of crime. Technology like printers, mobile phones, and computers were used in about half of the cases, but the Internet was the exclusive tool of ID thieves only about 10 percent of the time. The median loss from identity theft was just over \$31,000, but in one case, investigated by the Secret Service's Dallas field office, the defendant spent millions on luxury vehicles and then managed to set up shell companies and defraud investors. Losses totaled \$13 million. "In general," however, "the more offenders involved in the case, the higher the victim loss," the study stated. According to Javelin Strategy & Research, identity theft cost U.S. businesses and consumers an estimated \$49.3 billion in 2006.

Source: http://www.infoworld.com/article/07/10/23/ID-thieves-50-50-chance-of-prison_1.html

28. *October 23, The Associated Press* – (International) **British, Dutch police close pirate site.** British and Dutch police shut down what they say is one the world's biggest online sources of pirated music Tuesday and arrested the Web site's 24-year-old suspected operator. The invitation-only OiNK Web site specialized in distributing albums leaked before their official release by record companies, the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry said. Many among OiNK's estimated 180,000 members paid donations "to upload or download albums, often weeks before their release, and within hours albums would be distributed through public forums and blogs across the Internet." Users were invited to the site if they could prove they had music to share, the IFPI said. The IFPI said more than 60 major albums were leaked on OiNK so far this year, making it the primary source worldwide for illegal prerelease music. Prerelease piracy is considered particularly damaging to music sales as it leads to early mixes and unfinished versions of artists' recordings circulating on the Internet months before the release. Police in Cleveland, in northeast England, said they were tracing the money generated through the Web site, expected to amount to hundreds of thousands of dollars. The arrest of a 24-year-old IT worker at a house in Middlesbrough, northeast England, followed a two-year investigation by Dutch and British police and raids coordinated by Interpol. Cleveland police said the man, whose name was not released, was arrested on suspicion of conspiracy to defraud and infringement of copyright law. OiNK's servers, in Amsterdam, were shut down by Dutch police, the IFPI said.

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20071023/ap_on_hi_te/britain_pirate_web_site;_ylt=Apf5aM4kxV_81NcBxsmuS0MjtBAF

29. *October 22, Computerworld* – (Colorado) **Update: World Series ticket sales to resume after Colo. stall.** After a 26-hour delay, the Colorado Rockies baseball team will at last be able to sell its tickets for World Series home games at Coors Field. Sales should begin Tuesday at noon MDT on the Rockies' Web site. When its automated ticketing vendor's servers crashed early Monday morning, the Rockies struck out as they tried to sell tickets to three home World Series games, set to begin on Saturday. "It's been an extremely frustrating day for our fans and the entire Rockies' organization," said the Rockies' team president in a statement. "Our Web site, and ultimately our fans and our organization, were the victim of an external, malicious attack that shut down the system and kept our fans from being able to purchase their World Series tickets." The National League team, which will face the American League champion, the Boston Red Sox, beginning Wednesday night in Boston, had announced last week that it would sell its World Series tickets via an online process to make it fair for all ticket buyers for the first World Series to involve a Colorado team. Only about 500 tickets had been sold online before the outage occurred, 10 minutes after the tickets went on sale Monday.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9043598&intsrc=hm_list

30. *October 22, Computerworld* – (National) **Adobe patches critical PDF vulnerability.** Adobe Systems Inc. patched its Reader and Acrobat programs Monday to fix a flaw that exposed most Windows XP users to exploits arriving in malicious PDF files. The patches are included in updates to Reader, the for-free PDF rendering utility, and Acrobat, Adobe's full-featured application; both have been tagged as Version 8.1.1. "Critical vulnerabilities have been identified in Adobe Reader and Acrobat that could allow an attacker who successfully exploits these vulnerabilities to take control of the affected system," Adobe warned in the bulletin that detailed the patch availability. "A malicious file must be loaded in Adobe Reader or Acrobat by the end user for an attacker to exploit these vulnerabilities." Only users of Microsoft Corp.'s Windows XP who have Internet Explorer 7 installed are at risk of such attacks, Adobe added. The patches come a little more than two weeks after Adobe acknowledged the bug and posted a complicated work-around that required users to edit the Windows registry.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9043543&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us-cert.gov.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

Communications Sector

31. *October 23, The Associated Press* – (International) **Report: China starts work on first direct undersea cable to US.** A group of phone companies has begun constructing the first undersea telecommunications cable directly linking China with the United States, a news report said Tuesday. The fiber-optic cable will go into operation next July ahead of the Beijing Olympics, the Chinese government's Xinhua News Agency said. The project, dubbed the Trans-Pacific Express, comes amid explosive growth in telephone and Internet traffic between China and the United States. Its developers say it will have 60 times the capacity of current cable connections between the two countries. Current U.S.-Chinese cable links run through Japan, but Beijing sees Tokyo as a regional rival and has long wanted an independent connection to the United States. Construction of the new cable began Monday in the Chinese coastal city of Qingdao, Xinhua said. Its developers are state-owned China Telecom Ltd., China Netcom Ltd. and China Unicom Ltd., Verizon Communications Inc. of the United States, Taiwan's Chunghwa Telecom Co. and South Korea's KT Corp. The cable is to have connections to South Korea and Taiwan, but none to Japan, according to its developers. Verizon said last year the system would extend more than 18,000 kilometers (11,000 miles) and represent an investment of US\$500 million. The route of the cable is intended to minimize potential disruption from earthquakes by avoiding seismically active areas, Xinhua said. A quake in January severed an undersea cable near Taiwan, disrupting communications throughout Asia.

Source: <http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2007/10/23/business/AS-TEC-China-US-Sea-Cable.php>

32. *October 22, Newsfactor.com* – (National) **Comcast impersonates users to control P2P traffic.** Comcast interferes with peer-to-peer traffic on its cable network by masquerading as users and resetting connections, *The Associated Press* reported on Friday. Apparently in an effort to maintain quality of service, Comcast cut off uploads of files to BitTorrent and other P2P networks. While observers agree that an Internet service provider needs to be able manage its traffic, the way Comcast is going about this -- by impersonating customers -- is troubling to many. "Comcast is in an interesting position because the amount of outbound and inbound traffic is constrained in their network," said the CEO of Sonic.net, a California internet service provider. "In an asynchronous network, as the amount of outbound traffic grows, inbound rates will decrease." Thus in order to maintain service quality for inbound traffic, which is important to all users, Comcast is throttling outbound P2P traffic. But the way Comcast is doing it -- by "injecting TCP resets that are forged as coming from the customer," according to the Sonic.net exec -- is "pretty weird." The *AP* story offered an apt metaphor: it is as if an AT&T operator broke into a phone conversation and impersonated one of the speakers, saying, "I have to go now, goodbye" and closed the connection. "That's a fundamental line that's been crossed," he said. Yet, he added, Comcast might have no choice. "The peer-to-peer software is so insidious in how it tries to work around throttling, that forging may be the only way to stop the traffic," he said.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/nf/56178;_ylt=Aj8vkLHNYtXJLkfgl0T.HrsjtBAF

Commercial Facilities Sector

33. *October 23, The Associated Press* – (California) **Stadium now a shelter for fire evacuees.** The current California fires have destroyed more than 500 homes and 100 businesses in San Diego County, the greatest swath of destruction in a series of Southern California blazes that began Sunday. Of the more than 250,000 people forced from their homes, volunteer coordinators estimated that 10,000 took shelter at Qualcomm, home of the San Diego Chargers. Others camped out in hotels, with friends and family and in other shelters scattered throughout the city.

Source: <http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5j2Fed3GM4XyxswLImxLvQ1G8YMYA>

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

34. *October 22, Environment News Service* – (California) **Southern California ablaze, hundreds of thousands evacuated.** The Ranch Fire in the Angeles National Forest in Los Angeles County has burned 41,000 acres since October 20 and is 10 percent contained. As a result of extreme fire activity, and to protect public health and safety, Angeles National Forest officials are implementing a forest closure, effective Tuesday. The closure will last until the extreme conditions subside. While the closure is in effect, going into or being upon National Forest System lands, roads, or trails within the Angeles National Forest is not allowed. Individuals or organizations holding special use permits for sanctioned activities within the forest are exempt from this order.

Source: <http://www.ens-newswire.com/ens/oct2007/2007-10-22-01.asp>

35. *October 22, KOLD 13 Tucson* – (Arizona and New Mexico) **National forests must lookout for smugglers.** Officials are concerned about the activities of human and drug smuggling gangs in U.S. national parks. For example, parts of the Coronado National Forest sit beside Mexico, in the border patrol's busiest sector. Thousands of pounds of marijuana worth millions of dollars have been intercepted here. "There are going to be smuggling organizations and load drivers that use [these] roads to stay away from the highways and law enforcement in general," said a Border Patrol official.

Source: http://www.kold.com/Global/story.asp?S=7250075&nav=menu86_2

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Dams Sector

36. *October 22, The Associated Press* – (Louisiana) **Flooding leads to closing of N.O. Canal.** The Army Corps of Engineers closed a gate on the Harvey Canal in Jefferson Parish as heavy rains lashed New Orleans, raising fears that climbing waters threatened to top the walls holding them back. After more than 8 inches of rain fell on parts of the city by late afternoon, the mayor shut City Hall early, and schools also closed. People were asked to stay indoors until the flood potential subsided. The Harvey Canal was one of several in the area placed

under new safety guidelines after Hurricane Katrina's flood waters breached two New Orleans canals in August 2005, causing catastrophic flooding. The corps has worked to strengthen the canal, about five miles from downtown, but engineers worried that water being driven into it might lead to flooding. The area around the canal includes homes and businesses. Unlike the canal walls that broke during Katrina, the walls on the Harvey Canal are not considered at threat of being breached by rising waters, said the Army Corps' operations chief.

Source: <http://apnews.myway.com/article/20071022/D8SEJ6SG0.html>

37. *October 22, The Union-Tribune* – (California) **Lowering water level at dam is concern.**

With rising uncertainty over water availability in the region, San Diego city officials have expressed concern over the timing of a water drawdown at San Vicente Reservoir. The reservoir provides water to the city, but it could close for up to nine years while a project aimed at raising the dam is completed. Water levels would drop significantly, from about 630 to 590 feet above sea level. A San Diego environmental planner wrote that the city's water department was concerned about whether the region would have enough emergency and other water storage during the drawdown. A Water Authority spokesman said the agency is looking at storing more water elsewhere during the project.

Source: <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/metro/20071022-9999-1m22sanv.html>

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